

California GARDEN

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S GARDEN MAGAZINE FOR 52 YEARS

35 cents

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1961

VOL. 52, NO. 5

THE FIRE-WHEEL . . .

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JAMES T. HUBBELL ON
GARDEN SCULPTURE



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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1961

VOL. 52, NO. 5

All of us who believe in public landscaping face a double challenge during the next few months.

First on the battle line will be a City ordinance regulating billboards on freeways. The arguments in favor of such an ordinance seem so overwhelming that I'll take space to cite only two of the most potent: safety and the public investment.

As advertising, billboards are designed to attract the motorist's attention and distract him from his driving. If they do a good job for the advertiser, they are a hazard to the motoring public.

Freeways represent a tremendous investment of public funds — yours and mine. Turning them into a vast outdoor display room for a captive audience subverts their purpose. I think it also violates the will of a majority of citizens.

These two reasons alone seem sufficient cause to support a no-billboards-on-freeways ordinance. But most of us, bearing a slight kinship to mules, need a carrot or two to get us moving. The carrot in this case is tempting enough: before the state will spend additional public funds to landscape freeways, the city must enact an approved ordinance prohibiting outdoor advertising thereon. A further carrot from Washington offers a percentage of freeway funds to states which enact an approved law regulating billboards on interstate highways. For California this particular carrot amounts to nearly \$18 million, but California has not yet qualified. Keep in mind that as taxpayers we are buying the carrots; whether we eat or not depends on how fast and how far we are willing to run for them. Those 18 million green-topped carrots will land in Maryland or Florida if Californians don't wake up.

San Diego will not have an adequate ordinance unless we demand it. Outdoor advertising boasts a well organized, well trained, and well financed lobby on both the local and state levels. In other states, citizens have overcome it only through the pressure of numbers. Even a sympathetic City Council cannot act strongly unless it knows that the people stand behind it.

Citizens Coordinate (3631 Fifth Ave., CY 7-1149) has taken the lead in promoting an adequate ordinance in San Diego. You may wish to join

their effort, or you may prefer to go it alone. Whichever route you choose, do something constructive, and do it now. You have the power, you have the means. Do you have the will?

The second challenge applies particularly to garden clubs and allied groups. Freeway landscaping affords present-day San Diegans the sort of opportunity that Balboa Park offered the civic-minded pioneer fifty years ago. Instead of waiting for landscaping to trickle down from Sacramento, garden groups can roll up their sleeves, oil up their money-raising talents and their powers of persuasion, and work with local officials to turn those brown banks green. This sort of project requires the best landscaping talent, the best leadership, and the strongest backs available, plus the mule-like stubbornness of a Kate Sessions or a Pearl Chase. The garden clubs of San Diego have the numbers; what they have yet to demonstrate is a common purpose and the leadership to see it through. So far, that's the San Diego Story in the Soaring Sixties, disunity and inadequate leadership. But gardeners are exceptional people, aren't they?

In August, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce communicated its endorsement of a natural park in San Clemente Canyon to the City Council. What happened to that letter you were going to write?

Hillcrest is the latest business district to landscape sidewalks with trees. Businessmen there have made a good start on a three-block frontage.

Only a year after the fact, we report the news that Ed Ogden, a youthful but well-trained plantsman, is the new owner of DeHaan's Shoreline Nurseries in Leucadia.

Nothing we have published during my brief term as editor has brought such a volume of favorable response as the vignette on Kate Sessions in the last issue (for a sample see Fun Mail, next page). I am grateful to all of you who took the trouble to comment, and to Hazard Products, Inc., for sharing this material with CG readers.

George La Pointe

COVER: During his lifetime, Alfred C. Hottes provided delight and information for thousands of readers through his writings and illustrations in books and magazines, including this one. His dramatic drawing of the Fire-wheel Tree on this month's cover comes to us through the courtesy of Robert H. Calvin. For further enlightenment on this striking tree, read Chauncy I. Jerabek's article beginning on page 13.

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San Diego Garden Club Center

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Rep. Dir.: Mrs. June Brown CO 5-2124

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Rep. Dir.: Dr. J. W. Trozell AT 2-9131

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Rep. Dir.: Elizabeth A. Newkirk BR 4-2042

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Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Mary Bray Watson AT 4-2669

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3746 Ben, S.D. 11 BR 7-1368
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. D. R. Gardiner BR 7-3635

GARDEN CLUBS NOTICE

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs. Membership fee: \$10. Groups holding meetings in the Floral Building contribute an additional \$15 to the building maintenance fund.

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
San Diego Branch
Fourth Mon., Barbours Hall 8:00 p.m.
University & Pershing, BR 4-1746
President: Mrs. Marie H. Metheny
San Miguel Branch
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove, 8:00 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Brook HO 6-0162
CABRILLO—MISSION GARDEN CLUB
Third Thurs., Members' Gardens, 9:30 a.m.
President: Mrs. Raymond K. Stone BR 7-7134
CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
First Fri., VFW Hall, 1:00 p.m.
President: Mrs. Doris Simpson PA 9-1913
CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA CLUB
Second Tues., Norman Park Recreational Center, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. J. L. Riese GA 2-0587
CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Third Wed., C.V. First Christian Club, 1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. William R. Williams GA 2-7627
CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB
Third Tues., Clairemont Community Center, 10:00 a.m.
President: Mrs. Wm. Cordes BR 4-6182
CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
No regular meeting date, Christ Church Parish Hall
President: Capt. Frank T. Sloat HE 5-3325
CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO
Fourth Thurs., Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane
President: Mrs. J. Dunham Reilly HE 5-4685
DELCADIA GARDEN CLUB
First Tues., Knute Eastman PL 2-3029
DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (Pauma Valley)
Second Tues., Homes of members, 1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Thornburg PL 2-3225
ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Third Fri., Women's Club House, 1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Albert Seibert SH 5-6933
Flower Arrangers Work shop—first Friday, 9:30 a.m.
Horticulture Workshop—fourth Friday, 9:30 a.m.
EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BEGONIA SOCIETY
Third Mon., Community House, La Jolla, 7:30 p.m.
President: Col. Edwin P. Lock, Jr. GL 4-4752
FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thurs., Roche Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Nelson Bender PA 8-2730
IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Third Tues., South Bay Community Center, 1:00 p.m.
President: Mrs. Al Hague GA 4-9425
LAKEVIEW GARDEN CLUB
Third Mon., Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Cecil Carender HI 3-1575
LA MESA SPRINGHOUSE GARDEN CLUB
Third Thurs., Porter Hall, La Mesa, 7:30 p.m.
President: Cdr. Alfred A. Paulsen HO 6-8346
LA MESA WOMEN'S CLUB (Garden Section)
Third Thurs., La Mesa Women's Club, 1:45 p.m.
President: Mrs. John Casale HO 5-0977
LEMON GROVE WOMEN'S CLUB
(Garden Section)
First Tues., Lemon Grove Women's Club House, 1:00 p.m.
Chairman: Mrs. Frank Barber HO 6-8641
MISSION BEACH WOMEN'S CLUB
(Garden Section)
First Fri., Mission Beach Women's Club House, 9:00 a.m.
Chairman: Mrs. John A. Horrell HU 8-3293
NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB
Third Wed., National City Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
President: Kenneth Boulette GR 7-9240
O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., South Oceanside School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
President: Walter Watchorn SA 2-3501
PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Second Mon., Home Federal Friendship Hall, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Ernest Ambort BR 6-1595
RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed.,
President: Mrs. Hardy H. Kent PL 6-1428
SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCULENT CLUB
First Sat., Youth Center, Lemon Grove HO 9-3038
SAN DIEGO GUATEMALA GARDEN CLUB
Third Wed.
President: Mrs. Vincent Vella PL 6-1908
SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Mon., Ramona Park, 10:00 a.m.
President: Mrs. Dorace Scarbery ST 9-0428
VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Fri., Vista Recreation Center, 1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Morgan PA 4-7510

Garden Clubs: Help us to help you!
Put CALIFORNIA GARDEN on your mailing list.

FUN MAIL

Whether it's fan or pan, it's fun
to get mail.

Sir:
"AND THE DESERT SHALL BLOSSOM"
This was indeed a very beautiful tribute you paid to Kate Sessions in the August-September number of CALIFORNIA GARDEN. Kate Sessions was one of my oldest friends. I first met her in 1896, soon after I had entered the employ of the Germain Fruit Company Seed & Plant Department. Kate Sessions was then a handsome young woman. She came into Germain's store at Second and Main Streets and asked for seed of *Luffa acutangula*. I had only been working there a few weeks and was not familiar with all the stock. She sort of caught me off-guard and I did not know what *Luffa acutangula* was. If she had said, Dishrag Gourd, I would have known. After she left, the manager came to me and said, "That lady you waited on is Miss Kate Sessions from San Diego. When she comes around you want to be on your toes for she certainly knows her plants."

In the years that followed I saw Miss Sessions quite frequently and after I started in business in 1903 she visited my nursery and I visited hers on a number of occasions, and we traded together over the years. The last time I saw Kate Sessions was at the hospital in La Jolla, a few weeks before she passed on. I sat by her bedside for one half hour and we talked. What did we talk about? Why, plants, of course. She was a most wonderful person.

During the 68 years I have been a resident of Southern California, many publications have been started and many of them have died out, but CALIFORNIA GARDEN has endured through the years and seems to improve all the time.

Very sincerely yours,

THEODORE PAYNE
Los Angeles, California

CALENDAR

October 6 & 16

Flower Arrangement Workshop;
Mrs. Arthur J. Mitchell, instructor. Floral Bldg., 10 a.m.

October 7-8

Civic Center Garden Tours, 10, 12, 2 & 4 o'clock.

October 24-27

Escondido Flower Show School,
Course III; Mrs. Clarence W. Benson, Chairman. Floral Bldg.

October 30

Flower Arrangement Class; Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, instructor. Floral Bldg., 9:30 a.m.

November 8 & 22

Flower Arrangement Workshop;
Floral Bldg., 10 a.m.

November 27

Flower Arrangement Class; Floral Bldg., 9:30 a.m.



'Compatible Contrast'

SIMPLICITY of line combines with richness of texture and color to produce the charming arrangement above. Mrs. Martin Behrens of Chula Vista calls her creation "Compatible Contrast."

Selected as the best entry from the Pacific Region, this arrangement will appear in the 1962 *National Flower and Garden Calendar*, published by National Council Books, Inc., Philadelphia.

In her descriptive notes, Mrs.

Behrens points up the contrasts in texture and color:

"A dramatic manzanita branch in natural gray and dark red tones; succulent rosettes of *Graptopetalum paraguayense* in muted gray-green with flush of rosy tones.

"The wooden base is made up of Japanese half-moons lacquered brick red. Container is a hand-thrown Japanese pottery vase, made into pouch-like shape before firing. Brick red and turquoise overglaze, seeming to flow from the top of the container, partially covers the underglaze of mottled beige tones. The ridges left by the potter's wheel and an irregular scattering of gray grit enhance the texture."

Mrs. Behrens is a member of the Flower Arrangers' Guild and has conducted arrangement classes for the San Diego Floral Association. She is a former president of the Chula Vista Garden Club.

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California Garden



THE SPACE BETWEEN THE LEAVES

A young Rancho Santa Fe artist considers the place of sculpture in the garden, and illustrates his conclusions with photographs of his own creations.

I SOMETIMES wonder where I really begin or end. Do I end with my fingertips or with the apple I am about to eat, or as far as the distant hills I can see?

What if I paint a picture or plant a tulip? Is this part of me, or not? Am I the same for having planted it? Or is the tulip?

I must confess that I cannot answer these questions. I do not really know if I am nothing or everything. Yet, when I plant a tree, or place a sculpture in the garden, I have the feeling that I am leaving part of myself in the sun or the rain: that, as part of the tree or the sculpture, I enjoy the early morning sun or the rain at night, even though I may not be there.

The garden to me is a very wonderful place where one can delight in the changes in nature, the abundance of its forms, and be free to practice man's will of selection and ordering. Here I can create sculpture for man and nature that will serve as a link to unite them.

BY JAMES T. HUBBELL



Hanging

In the garden between the leaves, we place a
piece of sculpture. We feel the sun upon our heads,
the wind upon our backs.

In the forms set between the leaves, we bare our
souls, we give the gift. Be it humble or grand, there
it stands.

In its shadows we communicate with men, and
nature finds a pathway in our song.

Growing



From a Kodachrome by Clinton Pedley

Silver Tree foliage in an arrangement by Morton Nielsen.

In the Golden State

SILVER TREES

Set the Standard

By Edith P. Healey

IF AND when you see your first living *Leucadendron argenteum* (Silver Tree), or your first flower arrangement using its branches, be prepared for a breath-taking experience. That, at least, is how it was with me.

The graceful, thickly-leaved *Leucadendron* boughs reminded me of huge paws of silver fur. The shimmering metallic colors, shot all over with silver, turned, where the tips caught the light, to pure argent. The whole leaf is over-laid with tiny, silken silvery hairs, but the *pure silver* color appears only on the top side of the new leaf terminals. Leaves, about five inches long and one inch wide at the broadest point, hug the branches in an over-lapping manner to a thickness of several inches. The conformation is a little like that of a pineapple top.

The foliage is pale blue-green, apple-green and lime-green, all at the same time. In bright sunlight, or under strong indoor light, it forms an iridescent mass with highlights reflecting the gleaming silver hairs.

For arrangements, *Leucadendron* is superb in combination with any flower, or even alone, according to Mr. and Mrs. Morten Nielsen of Carlsbad, California, professional

flower-arrangers who grow silver trees for their work. This pair of "retired" florists saw a silver tree for the first time when they came to Carlsbad eight years ago. With the professional's knack of recognizing the possibilities of a beautiful specimen, they sought out *Leucadendron* at a nursery and started growing their own.

This story isn't going to continue with "now they have thousands" or even "hundreds." They have a few. *Leucadendrons* are select company, fairly scarce in nurseries and problem children to raise. The number of conditions under which they will *not* grow is large. Call them "pets" for the patient, the intelligent, or the lucky gardener with the right exposure and soil (decomposed granite, if possible). For these people success should be possible, and prestige automatic: a silver tree growing in your garden is a conversation piece of the highest order.

To the many others who may not grow them, but who may run across them in arrangements and wish to be able to recognize them, I hope this article will be of help. The bark of the tree, I might add, is gray, and according to one book, grows in a "tortuous" manner. Deeply fissured horizontally,

it resembles the trunk of a cork oak. For those who do not know the cork tree, either, *Leucadendron* trunks look like elephant trunks!

SILVER trees may not be grown from slips, by budding, grafting, dividing or in *any way at all except from seed*. This seed has to come from South Africa, since the trees in this country bloom or bear seed very rarely, if at all. Furthermore, the seed has an extremely hard shell which has to be treated in some way such as scratching with an abrasive material to assist nature in getting water to the kernel inside. The impatient home gardener would be wise to buy nursery stock where obtainable.

Silver trees will not grow in ground to which the manure of any animal has been applied. Likewise avoid fertilizing after planting. Garden soil is rich enough.

Over-watering is the easiest trap to fall into. The trees must have perfect drainage: no wet feet. *Leucadendron argenteum* has been reported in *Sunset Magazine* as growing in Marin County and at Los Gatos without water after the first three years (and then only in summer). In their

native habitat (Cape of Good Hope, South Africa) they endure long, waterless summers, all of which seems contradictory. In San Diego's hot, dry climate, the trees are watered—carefully—throughout the year and throughout their lives.

Watering must be done intelligently, since the roots are both shallow and very fine, and will die quickly if allowed to dry out completely. On the other hand, if allowed to become very wet, the tree might blow down in a strong wind. Care must be taken not to allow water to stand around the roots. Water twice a month in heavy soil areas, and once a week in sandy soil such as we have along the coast.

Temperatures of 24° F. in a still, low spot might damage them, while on a high hill where the air moves, 20° might do no harm. They can take any amount of heat in a location where temperature does not fall below 20° in winter. In the inner valleys from Los Angeles to San Diego, they should be planted on high ground where the air moves, but along the coast between the same points, they are generally safe at lower levels.

When a young tree is removed from the can and planted, a large enough basin should be provided so that water will reach down to the depth of the can. Later, when roots have spread, watering may be done with a sprinkler. Mature trees require less water than young ones.

In Africa, silver trees grow in the mountains back from the coast, where they reach 40 feet but are relatively short-lived. In San Diego County, the trees attain a height of 18-20 feet and a trunk 8-9 inches in diameter. Their average life here appears to be only about eight years.

Elsewhere in Southern California, they are more persistent, at least in exceptional cases. Dr. Samuel Ayres Jr., of La Canada, informs me that he has just taken out a tree that was twenty-five years old because it "had lost its attractiveness." In 1949 it withstood a freeze of 27 degrees for three nights, accompanied by six inches of snow.

This tree, which had been purchased in a small can, had grown all of those years in a lawn! However, the soil under the grass was decomposed granite. Dr. Ayres reports on another tree now twelve years old and grown from seed. "It is growing close to a tall telephone pole and is the same height as the pole. This tree gets very little water and is still doing well."

His letter continues: "These trees have not bloomed in La Canada, al-



This Silver Tree is a prominent landscaping feature at the dental clinic of Dr. G. P. Gerrodette, Reed Avenue and Ingraham, Pacific Beach.

though they do bloom in Santa Barbara and I believe set seed there. We sometimes get rather stiff, hot winds in La Canada which do not seem to bother the trees, although the old one leaned somewhat to the south-west." Dr. Ayres said that seeds can be obtained by writing to the Municipality of Caledon or the National Botanical Gardens in Kirstenbosch, Newlands, both in Cape Province, South Africa.

SMART gardeners, especially smart flower arrangers, should plant a small silver tree (or seeds) every two years to insure a continuous supply. That's the way my Carlsbad neighbors started.

Accustomed to the hectic responsibility of running eight big-city flower shops, "Mort" and Dorothea Nielsen found retirement a little palling. When they began selling flowers and arrangements (featuring *Leucadendron*), they thought that business in such a small city would be slight. So beautiful were their materials and work, however,

that word spread far and wide, and so did their business. Result? Today, no retail work at all. They do *not* sell flowers or branches of silver trees! But, ironically, they are as busy as ever with their arrangements and corsages.

I have seen Mr. Nielsen's arrangements using *Leucadendron* with *Streptocarpus* (Bird-of-Paradise) and *Tritoma* (Red Hot Poker); with the white, waxy blooms of magnolia; with pastel roses; and the leaves alone with a center motif of ceramic birds.

"Nothing, absolutely no other leaves," says this Danish decorator, "can compare with *Leucadendron argenteum* for foliage in flower arrangements." I might add that they are the platinum setting for the choicest—or humblest—of blooms.

Nor is eye-appeal all: to feel the leaves is an exquisite experience. The tips of the branches, rounded with the fullness of many leaves, offer a satiny caress as soft as a whisper.

The Silver Tree—I wonder if Joyce Kilmer ever saw one!



Aloe candelabrum

No sweeter today than in Biblical times,
Bitter Aloes still command respect—
and an important place in the modern landscape

Drawings by Dorothy Landon

HELLO ALOE!

By Alice Mary Greer

LOST IN antiquity, yet today presenting the vigor of youth. This is the saga of "aloe," an ancient Arabic name, used now in its Latinized form.

As early as 400 B.C. the Arabs, Greeks, and Romans were using the aloe's resinous juice, the "bitter aloes" of commerce. From the leaves of the Zanzibar aloes, indigenous to the Island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean at the entrance of the Gulf of Aden, the Greeks extracted aloin, dissolved it in water and added it to sweet-smelling incense for purifying the bodies of the dead. We find frequent references to aloes in the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New.

The condensed juice is a strong purgative, well known to the ancients and used extensively for that purpose by the Greeks and Romans. It is a strong-yellow color when pressed from the leaves, exceedingly bitter and very persistent in its dyeing and flavoring effect. I know from bitter experience. (No pun intended). Currently this

extract is used mainly by veterinarians as a horse medicine.

Fascinating succulents are these aloes—over 200 species known to science—ranging in size from two to three inches high to trees 30 to 40 feet tall. Four of these species are my favorites, and for good reasons.

Associations of Childhood: In early days almost every gardener in San Diego either proudly flaunted, barely kept alive, or just modestly grew "red-hot-pokers," erroneously so-called by children. Huge clumps, bedded in the earth, in rusty, tin basins under pepper trees, on porches, or in neglected byways, were among the sight-scenes of the city. Nothing daunted, they seldom died.

Simplicity of Culture: Read further and you'll see.

Feast of Blooms: In late December, January and early February, when fall coloring is spent and spring bloom not yet arrived, aloë blossoms paint our gardens with a brilliancy that lasts for weeks.

Joy to Arrangers: The striking forms, colors and textures of the flowers and leaves are invaluable to the flower arranger at all seasons.

Asset to Landscape Architects: The aloë's "stylish" effect (word borrowed from Kate O. Sessions) in modern landscaping makes them naturals for emphasizing certain architectural features. In this field they possess untold possibilities.

Aloë Arborescens, meaning tree-like or woody aloë, is one of the best known and most widely cultivated. It is a handsome plant, with thick, fleshy leaves forming rosettes just above the roots. From this cluster rises the tall, leafless flower-stalk. The leaf-stem is clothed, as are certain palm trunks, with withering leaves and sinuately spreading, gradually narrowed green leaves, 24 inches long, heavily notched and margined with rather long prickles. The plants are multi-branched. Clumps 45 years old may consist of 50 to 60 rosettes and reach 18 feet in height.

The spike-shaped inflorescence is made up of many bell-shaped florets, each two to three inches long. The color, bright vermillion, shading to clear yellow, with a maize pistil, is spectacularly striking; it sings of cheer and carries the eye and the spirit ever upward, as do heaven-pointing church spires. A clump of *A. arborescens* bearing 50 to 60 spires in full

bloom at the same time is truly breathtaking.

Aloë candelabrum to the casual observer differs only slightly from *A. arborescens*. Actually, it attains a greater height than does *arborescens*, often exceeding 25 feet. It does not branch or sprawl so much, and has longer and more recurved leaves. It is, I think, a handsomer plant.

The main difference between the two species is in the inflorescence. *Arborescens* sends up from each rosette a single blossom-stalk. *Candelabrum* sends up an erect blossom-stalk that branches like a candelabrum, three to seven times, each branch bearing vermillion-colored blooms. The *candelabrum* blooms favor a vermillion on the yellow side, while the *arborescens* blooms favor a vermillion on the red side.

Both of these varieties are very suitable for specimen planting, for backgrounds, for skyline effects, for large rockeries and for hillside landscaping.

ALOES like rocky slopes, where drainage is good, as in their native South Africa. Stems will rot, if planted in adobe, in pockets where water will collect, or in containers with poor drainage. With us, as in their native habitat, they are drought resistant (of course, they do shrivel, when very dry), and can take intense

heat. In years of normal rainfall they seldom need winter watering except by rains.

They will survive, yes, in poor soil, but should have fairly rich, porous soil, some bonemeal, sand and leaf mold. They will tolerate the average winter temperature of San Diego and up to 100 and 110 degrees of summer heat, as in South Africa and Zululand.

Aloes will not propagate from leaf cuttings, but seedlings can easily be raised. Seeds ripen abundantly in the summer, if the dead stalks remain on the plants. I see to it that they do not remain on my plants! But aloes are notoriously promiscuous hybridizers, so true species are rare. However, seedlings are very hardy and not subject to rot, as are the mature plants.

Species with erect stems, like *arborescens* and *candelabrum*, grow easily from suckers and offsets. This indicates the quickest and most satisfactory method of propagation. The offsets should be planted *on* the ground, not *in* the ground. Let only the roots, not the stem be *in* the ground. Rest the stem on top of the ground until the offset is well rooted. If any portion of the stem is *in* the ground, you will have a falling party some day. The plant will rot off at ground level and topple over.

Aloes are comparatively clean, healthy, robust in nature. Snails and slugs, I suppose, resent their spines.



Aloë ciliaris



Aloe distans

Aphids, red spider and scale pass them up. Their antipathy to our alkaline water is not too marked, but watch their improved appearance after the first fifty drops of rain!

Aloe ciliaris, meaning hairy aloe, and referring to the minute hairs on the edges of the leaves, has marked characteristics. In growth it is widely spreading; it climbs fences, trees and shrubs, sending forth from its woody base sprays 20 feet long. Thus it is a splendid cover plant, especially fine for an espalier. It responds well to shaping, grows rapidly, and like all aloes, resists drought. Because it will grow five to 10 feet in one season, severe yearly thinning should take place in order to keep the fresh, young growth coming.

Aloe ciliaris is an especially happy, cheerful, rather lilting thing. Its small, shiny-green, finely toothed, recurved leaves grow in whorls around gray-green stems. The blossom-stalks, 10 to 15 inches long, always point upward, again like the church spires, no matter what the twisting plant-stalk might be doing. The individual florets, closely hugging each other on the spike, are Chinese-red and orange with jade-colored segments much shorter than the cylindrical tube. They are truly little Christmas candles brightening the garden in January and February.

Aloe distans should be named distance, for it bids us keep our distance from its toothed whorls. However, its descriptive name, *distans*, meaning remote, separate, removed, refers to the far-reaching growth-habit of the plant. This is a procumbent species, branched and spreading. Its massive stems, with terminal rosettes always turned upward, will grow to a length of 20 to 25 feet. Thus it makes a handsome plant for a hillside or a parkway. It's a luxuriant, rapid grower. The short, somewhat triangle-shaped leaves, interestingly and faintly mottled, are formed in interlapping whorls and are covered with strong, dark-tipped, yellow, marginal teeth.

THE inflorescence always delights the artists. Stems 18 to 20 inches long branch several times, and every branchlet bears aloft veritable miniature Japanese parasols! The numerous florets, each about two inches long, with recurving segments, are a pure old-rose color, overlaid with a lavender bloom. Each blossom-head hangs upside down on its parasol handle. When you come upon a bank dancing with numerous old-rose-overlaid-with-lavender Japanese parasols rising from a rich-green base, why go further to seek beauty?

To start new plants of *Aloe distans* follow nature. Do not put the stem into the ground. Instead, loosen the

soil and lay the cutting on its side on top of the ground. Steady its position by placing a stone on each side of the rosette and place another stone on the stem to keep it touching the ground until it has rooted. Give it plenty of sun and very little water. In a few weeks' time you'll find that roots have come out on the stem where it has been touching the ground. Attempt any other method of propagation and you'll be rewarded by a gradual dying back and the eventual disappearance of the cutting.

And so hello aloe, but not goodbye. May my four favorites join you in your garden?

50 YEARS AGO in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Charles W. Eliot, October, 1911.—The public needs to be taught that landscape architecture embraces city planning, the arrangement of formal courts, playgrounds and gardens in compactly built cities, the decoration of highways, and the utilization for human enjoyment of such broad open spaces as forests, water courses, cultivated fields and natural meadows . . . Landscape architecture is primarily a fine art . . . Its most important function is to create and preserve beauty in the surroundings of human habitations; but it is also concerned with promoting the comfort, convenience, and health of urban populations, which have scanty access to rural scenery, and urgently need to have their hurrying, workaday lives refreshed and calmed by the beautiful and reposeful sights and sounds which nature, aided by the landscape art, can abundantly provide.

John Nolen, November, 1911.—The really big opportunities have not yet been grasped by the people of San Diego. During the period since I was in San Diego before, smaller and weaker cities in other parts of the country have achieved many public improvements of importance. San Diego needs a worthy civic center, it needs a suitable connection from its big park to the water front. Above all it needs to begin a practical, well considered businesslike improvement of its great bay front along modern lines and requirements, especially for commercial purposes. This should be the city's first big step in city planning undertaken with a broadminded conception of its commercial and social advantages.

For odd flowers or exotic foliage, for shade or accent,
you can add a rare touch to your garden with one of these . . .

Spectaculars of the Tree World

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

PEOPLE choose trees for many reasons: slenderness, massiveness, spreading habit, picturesqueness, or just for the three F's, Foliage, Flowers, and Fruit. As you read this article you can judge for yourself what each of these trees represents.

Kigelia pinnata, the Sausage Tree of the Bignonia family, is a native of tropical Africa. Generally a wide-spreading, low-branched tree, it bears very stiff, rough, compound leaves. The flower buds, on long rubbery stems, turn upright, and open to a width of five inches. They are a dark velvety, carion-red inside and yellowish on the outside.

The gourd-shaped fruit, one to two feet long, is gray-green and slightly rough, and resembles a large sausage. Old stems of the flowers and fruit dangle for several seasons.

A tree in one of the patios at San Diego State College sets fruit freely, but the one in the Balboa Park nursery grounds seldom produces, although it flowers every season. The Sausage Tree is easy to grow and should be planted more widely; the fruit though not edible, is a curiosity, and the maroon flowers are attractive.

Spathodea campanulata, commonly called African Tulip Tree or Flame of the Forest, is native to tropical Africa and also belongs to the Bignonia family. It is a rapid growing, upright tree with large, odd-pinnate leaves, opposite or in threes.

The dark olive-green velvety buds, set in up-turned whorls, appear in circular, compact masses. Buds on the outer circle open, a few at a time, to show cups of molten gold. These spectacular orange-crimson flowers are followed by large, boat-shaped seed capsules, containing numerous flaky shining seeds.

The largest example I know of is in one of the patios at San Diego

State. Another is in the rear garden at the southeast corner of 7th and E Streets, Coronado; this tree can be seen over the fence on 7th Street. A small one is growing at 4381 10th, San Diego.

Scotia brachypetala, commonly called Tree Fuchsia or Kaffir bean, is native to South Africa and belongs to the Pea family. This beautiful spreading tree reaches about 15 feet in height, with a trunk diameter of 6-12 inches. It has dark green pinnate leaves and branched clusters of rosy or flesh-colored flowers. The brown, flattened pods are oval or broad linear and contain one or two seeds half-enclosed by a yellow aril. (In planting seeds, leave this yellow substance attached for ready sprouting and strong plants.)

Blossoms grow not only from young wood, but sprout from the main trunk and the older branches. When the seed pods that follow are fully matured, the outer edges split away from the main part of the pod, leaving a curious ring. People who make dried flower arrangements delight in these odd pods.

An example of *Scotia* is visible over the south fence at the residence of Dr. Bessie Peery, northwest corner of Second and Spruce, San Diego.

Phytolacca dioica, known as La Bella Sombre, "The tree with the beautiful shadow," belongs to the Poke-weed family. It is one of the largest trees of the Argentine pampas country.

This rapid grower, with soft, spongy wood, makes a round-headed evergreen tree with dense foliage. In August it produces hanging flower clusters similar to our wild cherry. Blossoms are followed by fleshy, berry-like fruit.

These drought-resistant trees provide a wonderful shade, but in maturity they are apt to have large, swollen trunk-bases, like inflated balloons.

Consequently, they should be avoided for smaller gardens, and have almost disappeared from the San Diego scene.

For examples, see the two near the incinerator at Pacific Beach Junior High School, and in Coronado, at 500 Alameda, 609 First, and 1500 Ynez Place. The last is a good example of the tree's tendency to produce buttresses at its base. When you visit the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, look for the *Phytolacca* northwest of the Lily Pool. This magnificent specimen shows how massively swollen the trunk base can become.

Stenocarpus sinuatus, a native of Australia, is known as the Fire-wheel Tree. This member of the Protea family makes a shrubby tree up to 30 feet tall. Its glossy-green, oak-like leaves, firm in texture, are sometimes a foot long and vary in shape from almost undivided to much dissected forms.

Not only is the foliage exceptional, but the flowers are very unusual. Borne near the ends of the branches, these conspicuous, rich-red flowers bear a striking resemblance to cartwheels, even before they are fully open. Blossoms continue from mid-summer through winter. The fruit which follows contains many thin, flat seeds. The foliage, flowers and fruit give a pleasing effect to any garden.

Locations: 150 W. Palm, 1810 Guy St., 3226 Curlew (north side), 1829 Mission Cliffs Dr., 4580 Delaware, and 2756 Locust (toward rear near south walk).

Sapium sebiferum, the Tallow Tree or Vegetable Tallow, belongs to the Euphorbia or Spurge family. In its native China, wax from its seed covering has long been used in making soap and candles. It is a beautiful deciduous tree with attractive heart-shaped leaves, which color to a bright red during the autumn months.

The largest specimen I know is at



TWO UNUSUAL TREES AT STATE COLLEGE

SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE PHOTOS

A college campus is a natural site for experimentation. At San Diego State College, intellectual curiosity has extended to horticulture and the use of unusual plant materials in landscaping the college grounds.

ABOVE: The Sausage Tree (*Kigelia pinnata*) tempts students each year with its abundant fruit (not shown in the picture, and not edible). This tree stands in the corner of the rose garden south of the Life Sciences Building.

RIGHT: At the end of Hello Walk, this African Tulip Tree flaunts spectacular orange-crimson flowers at passing students each fall. It is probably the largest tree of its kind in San Diego.



4759 68th St., Rolando. Others: 2552 Deepark Dr., Clairemont; 4645 35th, Normal Heights. A small one may be seen at 7907 Calle de la Plata, on the south side, La Jolla.

Talauma bodgsoni, a native of tropical Himalaya, belongs to the Magnolia family. It is an exotic looking, shrubby tree, with deep green leaves, sometimes up to nine inches wide and two feet long. The new growth, which comes about four times a year, is a beautiful wine color.

In spring the tree produces six inch, cup-shaped, creamy-white flowers with thick sepals tinged with purple on the outside. These spicy blooms at the ends of the branches are followed by cone-like fruit four to six inches long.

The late Hugh Evans ranked this rare tree as a true aristocrat. There is one growing in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ames, 7740 Hillside Dr., La Jolla; I know of only one other—in the grounds at the Huntington, among the cypcads at the northeast corner of the Art Gallery.

Aralia chinensis, commonly known as the Angelica tree, belongs to the Aralia family. This native of China is a large shrub or small tree with somewhat spiny trunks and branches. Its fern-like leaves reach two to four feet in length and two-thirds as wide. They are light green above and glabrous below, with tints of red on margins and veins. The small whitish flowers are borne on a large panicle, one to two feet long. Striking in both leaf and flower, it makes an outstanding specimen in a lawn or shrubbery border.

Locations: 3226 Curlew, 2972 First, San Diego; 7740 Hillside Dr., La Jolla.

Homalanthus populifolius, commonly called Red Poplar or Bleeding Heart, is native from Ceylon to the Pacific Islands. It belongs to the Euphorbia family. A small, bushy tree to six feet in height, it bears heart-shaped leaves which are soft in texture and turn a rich red with age.

This tree is also present in the Ames garden in La Jolla, along with many other rare plants. (Roll these few examples on your tongue: *Aesculus carnea*, *Chorisia speciosa*, *Cedrela sinensis*, *Manibot esculenta*, *Baubinia acuminata* and *B. galpini*, *Sophora japonica* and *S. secundiflora*, *Chrysophyllum oliviforme* and *Plumeria alba*.) If you enjoy looking at the unusual, I am sure that Mr. and Mrs. Ames would welcome your visit.

Straight talk about the rewards
and problems of growing

CITRUS

... in the Home Garden

By Fred Thorne

CITRUS trees showing their natural capabilities for growth and handsome appearance are uncommon in San Diego gardens. Fundamentally, conditions are far from ideal and those who elect to grow citrus trees should recognize that they are undertaking a challenge that will require more than normal skill and effort.

The greatest handicap is that soil conditions are poor for citrus in most of the urban areas. Our shallow soils underlaid with hardpan are highly undesirable for citrus culture. Citrus roots quickly weaken and succumb to various root rots when the soil is inadequately drained and becomes soggy. Therefore, provisions must be made to insure that excessive soil moisture will readily drain away at all times. This can be done by using raised beds or planters, or by installing drain tiles in the soil, but proper placement of drain tiles is a science in itself, and is a questionable undertaking for the amateur.

The climate in the area west of the first range of foothills is too cool for maximum growth of citrus. The cool summer months are unfavorable for all but lemons and limes, which are well adapted to coastal areas. Even these varieties are adversely affected by the cool prevailing west winds and need protection from ocean breezes.

The ideal yard citrus tree is probably the Meyer lemon. It is compact, neat, and strikingly attractive when loaded with ripe fruit. If allowed to grow naturally it will rarely reach a size that will create a problem in a limited yard area. On the other hand, it can be severely disciplined by pruning if the situation demands it. While the fruit is less acid than that of standard lemons, this should prove a minor drawback.

Commercial lemon varieties, such as the Eureka and Lisbon, produce moderate-sized trees which tend to become somewhat open and scraggly with age,

but can be depended upon to produce a year-round supply of fresh lemons. The nucellar Eureka merits first choice over the Lisbon for the immediate coastal areas.

Oranges are not well adapted to coastal climates. The Valencia variety has certain advantages over the navel orange, since the fruit may be held on the tree for months after it ripens. If harvest is delayed until late summer or fall, the fruit will become fairly palatable and may provide fresh oranges during that period when the markets are not well supplied. Valencias tend to bear "off-bloom" fruit along the coast—that is, they blossom and set fruit at other times than the regular spring blossoming period. These off-bloom fruits lack the quality of the regular crop but may provide oranges almost every month of the year.

On the other hand, the navel variety tends to shed its oranges when they become ripe; at about the time the fruit is sweet enough to eat, it starts to drop. In spite of this drawback, the superior qualities of the navel as an orange to eat out-of-hand may encourage gardeners to plant one.

ORANGES become large, dense, deep green trees of outstanding ornamental value when well grown. They should be allowed to grow with a minimum of pruning, and are happiest when allotted an area for their exclusive use. Lawns or other ground covers do not have the same water, soil and fertilizer requirements as citrus.

Grapefruit requires more heat than is available along the coast to achieve the sweet, low-acid flavor preferred by most people. The fruit tends to be thick-skinned, sour, and strongly flavored in cooler areas and is a poor choice unless there is a preference for this "full-bodied," almost medicinal, flavor.



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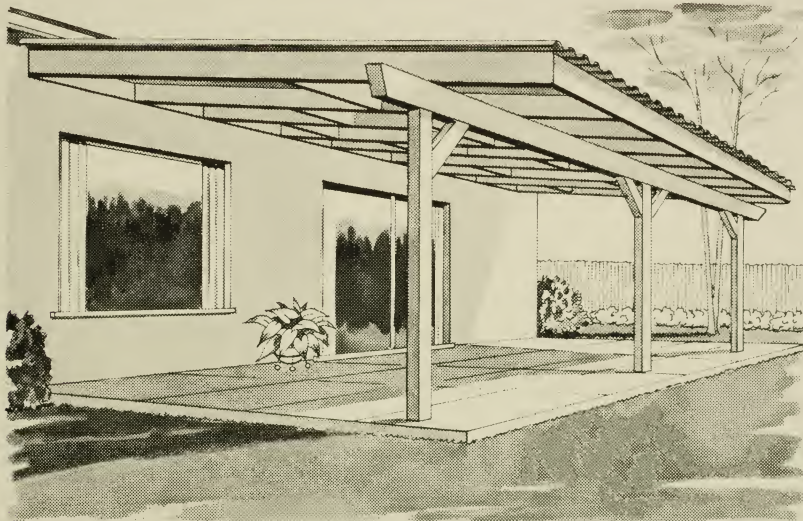
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Limes do well even in seashore communities. The Bearss variety makes a moderate-sized tree of excellent ornamental qualities, which can be recommended where the home owner enjoys this fruit. Several other citrus varieties, such as kumquats, sweet limes and satsumas can also be grown, but have less utility.

Trees are available at any time in nurseries, but spring planting is preferable. Meyer lemons are available in gallon cans, but for other varieties, trees with the roots in a ball of soil wrapped in burlap are least expensive and are entirely satisfactory. Small, well grown trees will quickly outgrow large, over-aged ones which might appear to be a better choice, but are actually less likely to be satisfactory. Trees budded to more than one variety, such as grapefruit, lemon, and orange on a single trunk, require skills beyond those of the average gardener to keep them in balance.

When citrus trees are planted they should be set high; that is, make sure that the bud union on the trunk will never be covered with soil. This precaution will aid in preventing "gummosis"—a condition where sap oozes from bark which has been destroyed by a fungus disease. This common malady of citrus can largely be prevented by keeping trunks dry, and by spraying the bark of the trunk a couple of times a year with Bordeaux. Prepared Bordeaux is readily available in pound packages. Mix three ounces in a gallon of water and spray or brush it onto the trunk, while stirring the mixture frequently, since it settles out quickly.

Proper watering, the main key to success, is one of the most difficult skills for the home gardener to master. Newly planted trees will require weekly irrigations in basins during the dry months; care should be taken that the ball of soil containing the roots is thoroughly soaked. Intervals between irrigations should be extended gradually and the basins enlarged so that by the time the trees are five years old and older a good soaking every three weeks will probably suffice during the summer months, except during unusual hot spells. It is far better to give citrus trees too little water than too much, since more citrus in home gardens die from too much kindness than from neglect. Young trees respond best to basin irrigation, but as they get older, sprinkler or furrow irrigation is just as effective.

Citrus trees require moderately high levels of nitrogen fertilizer. They respond well to chemical fertilizers

alone, or to combinations with organic fertilizers. There is nothing very elaborate or complex about supplying their needs, and usually the so-called "simples," such as ammonium nitrate or ammonium phosphate (16-20), will provide an economical answer. For yard trees it is generally wiser to apply small amounts often than it is to be overly generous.

THE gardener is easily bewildered by the array of insect and mite pests which attack citrus, and the complex assortment of pesticides available for control. It is now possible in the inland valleys largely to ignore these pests and to rely on biological control, but in the city it is better to adopt a defensive attitude and spray twice a year. Between mid-August and mid-October, trees should be thoroughly sprayed with one of the summer foliage oils which are readily available at nurseries or garden supply stores. Adequate directions for use are given on the label. If you can locate some Chlorobenzilate, add this to the dilute oil spray at the rate of one ounce of the twenty-five percent wettable powder to six gallons. Spray again in March or April with a mite control material, such as Kelthane, according to label information. Or this task can be turned over to commercial pest control operators, who are well equipped to handle the job.

Keep ants out of the garden by treating the surface of the ground but not the foliage or fruit. Chlordane is a good choice for this. Once again, read the label and follow the directions.

Wash down the trees with a garden hose about once a month during the dry period of the year to keep them free of dust and debris. Aphids on new growth in spring can be washed off with a strong stream of water about as readily as they can be controlled with insecticides. Adverse effects of aphids on citrus trees appear far more serious than they actually are.

Nothing can destroy all the careful efforts to raise a citrus tree so quickly as pocket gophers, which can kill a tree overnight by girdling the trunk below the soil line. Constant vigilance is essential. Watch for mounds of earth and use wire spring traps in the gopher runs.

While the corner market is likely to be a cheaper source of citrus fruits than the home garden, the satisfaction of harvesting home-grown fruit and the fine ornamental value of citrus trees are denied to those who would rather grow less exacting plants.

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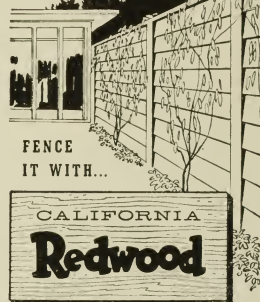
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BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

Southern California Gardens. By Victoria Padilla. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1961. 359 pages. \$10.00.

Victoria Padilla's book is out at last! Garden clubbers, horticulturists, nurserymen, Southern Californians in general have been expecting it. It was no secret that it was on the way! A project of the Southern California Horticultural Institute, of which she is an active member, and dedicated to the late Manfred Meyberg, who was president of Germain's, this is an absorbing story of today's gardens, from Santa Barbara to San Diego, of the origin of exotic plant materials, the people who introduced them, the distributing nurseries, and the landscape architects and horticulturists who designed the parks and gardens of our Southland.

Victoria is known for the fine bromeliads she grows, for her participation at the Southern California Horticultural Institute, and perhaps best of all for her own West Los Angeles garden, a joint hobby which she shares with her mother. This garden has often been opened to garden club groups, and has been an inspiration for its wealth of rare material, as well as its design and overall beauty. Her garden is the real proof-of-the- pudding that Victoria Padilla is eminently qualified to write this book.

A member of the English faculty of Los Angeles City College, and also a lecturer on ornamental horticulture, she somehow finds time for many other activities. She is co-founder and secretary of the International Bromeliad Society, and edits their bi-monthly "Bulletin," in itself a full-time hobby. A Native Daughter and a member of an old Spanish family from northern California, she treats the transition of Southern California gardens from the Spanish-Mexican occupation to present day exotic plantings with understanding and interest.

In an age of paper-backs, this volume is a thing of exquisite beauty. Printed on heavy glossy paper and profusely illustrated, the color plates of typical southland subjects include some of the fine work of Ralph D. Cornell, well known for his landscape work in designing parks and the grounds of many public buildings. The numerous black and white photos,

which might have come from the treasures in Grandma's trunk, add to the nostalgic fascination of this story of the land south of the Tehachapis.

The record of California's prolific horticulture has nothing like this new volume, for it combines history and personal stories with present day practical references and plant identification. Like the blind men of Hindustan, who each saw something different in the same elephant, the traveler can make this book a guide to his own "land of Hesperides." Historians and collectors of Americana, particularly the "Old West," will grab it up; horticultural libraries of botanic gardens and arboreta will add it to their collections; fanciers of cacti, iris, palms, and many such special plants, will feel it is just for them. "The Story of the Rose" section makes it a must for all rose libraries. SDFA members will love the account of the old ladies around Balboa Park, watering the palms with 50c-a-bucket water, to give the trees a start. The section on Kate O. Sessions, references to

the National Rose Show in San Diego, and to the beloved Mrs. Mary A. Greer, make this almost a San Diego story.

Whether you are an armchair traveler or one who goes globe trotting, whether you are a scientific plantsman or a plain dirt gardener, if you love this land (of which the minister said, "... could it be shown that Eden bore as many fruits pleasant to the taste, it would add a new pang to the thought of original sin") then you will want to read, and re-read, use for reference, and share with your friends, Victoria Padilla's *Southern California Gardens*.

Reviewed by
Helen D. Carswell

Gardening the Easy Way. By Edwin F. Steffek. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., New York, 1961. 198 pages. \$3.95.

The attractive covers of this volume seem to encompass all that a gardener should know. Drawing on an impressive horticultural background, Edwin F. Steffek puts forth solid and simple directives for anyone who is about to lay out, or remodel, a garden. It is all beginner-basic information that should save new gardeners from many pitfalls. One sound piece of advice: defer decisions on garden plans until they have been studied



San Diego Union-Tribune photo, courtesy Historical Collection, Union-Title Insurance Company, San Diego

Kate O. Sessions as she appears in *Southern California Gardens*.

for several months while living in the house.

There are extensive lists of plant materials. Trees for this area include the African Tulip, Empress, Golden Rain, Jacaranda and some evergreens, such as Incense Cedar, and Monterey Cypress (not recommended by local authorities). Mr. Steffek is correct in saying that peonies do not prosper here, but quite wrong about bearded iris. Some of the best hybrids have originated in Southern California. Actually it would be safer and quicker for local gardeners to consult plant lists compiled for our area. The real value of this book lies in its excellent factual discussion of the problems of planning, planting and maintaining the garden.

It seems a bit surprising that the author, in spite of years of editorial experience, should have chosen to use his own clear, but most unattractive, line drawings to illustrate what should be a handsome, as well as easy, book on gardening.

Reviewed by
Alice M. Clark

Miniature Roses. By Roy Genders. Blandford Press, London, 1960. 104 pages. \$3.95.

Although miniature roses, which probably originated in China, have been grown in Europe for more than 160 years, this is the first book to be devoted exclusively to them.

Whatever needs to be known about producing or using these lovely little flowers is covered ably and in great detail by Roy Genders, an English author with twelve books on gardening to his credit. The miniatures' cultural requirements, quite similar to those of their larger relatives, are summarized in this order: an open sunny location; a heavy but well-drained soil; regular feeding and mulching; the removal of dead and overcrowded wood.

Their culture in pots, tubs, window boxes and troughs is simply set forth, as is their adaptability to use in beds, dwarf hedges, borders, rock gardens and on trellises.

The book is well illustrated with photographs and easy-to-read sketches. Ten color plates show the miniatures' exquisite beauty in floral arrangements.

If Mr. Genders tends to oversimplify the culture of miniature roses, one must consider that England's climate may be somewhat more favorable to their production than is that of California.

Reviewed by
Merlin L. Seder

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The Traveler's Tree of Madagascar grows lustily on a local island—Coronado—at 900 Glorietta Blvd.

The Traveler's Tree

... OF CORONADO

ONE of nature's most exotic and striking ornamental plants is *Ravenea madagascariensis*, the Traveler's Tree. It belongs to the Banana family and is a native of the island of Madagascar, hence its specific name.

In our climate this curious plant probably would never reach more than 10 or 20 feet, but in its native habitat it might grow to four times this height. It has large, leathery, banana-like leaves with long stalks (up to 15 feet); these are two-ranked, giving the tree a fan-shaped appearance. The bases

of the concave leaf-stalks store water, and when they are tapped, this liquid trickles out to provide the weary traveler with a thirst quencher. The old leaves are invariably torn into ribbons by the wind, but even this ragged foliage is attractive and does not detract from the tree's gracefulness.

The great flower bracts, with white blooms and sky-blue seeds, are similar in formation to the flower bracts of the giant Bird-of-Paradise, *Strelitzia reginae*. The three-valved capsules contain seeds which are edible.

An example of this tree, extremely rare in the San Diego area, may be seen at 900 Glorietta Blvd., Coronado. If you would like to see how one of these trees looks at maturity, go to your favorite book store and ask for *Exotic Plants of the World* (Hanover House, Garden City, N. Y., 1957, \$4.95). Look on page 66 for a fascinating illustration. (This would be a good opportunity to patronize CALIFORNIA GARDEN advertisers.)

Chauncy I. Jerabek

How The Traveler's Tree Traveled To Coronado

WE ASKED W. D. Styer, owner of the Traveler's Tree shown on the opposite page, about the background of this unusual planting. His answer follows:

"We first saw the Traveler's Tree in Panama where we had two beautiful specimens in our front garden when we were stationed there about 25 years ago. We were told then that it received its name 'Traveler's Tree' because of its assistance to travelers both in giving them direction and furnishing water. When this tree seeds itself in nature it always grows pointing north and south—so I am told—thus giving a compass direction. It also stores water in its leaves. I think the two specimens we now have (one in front yard and one in back garden) are known as *Ravenala* and are of the species *R. madagascariensis*, a native of the Island of Madagascar.

"When we were selecting plantings for our home in Coronado we endeavored to find a Traveler's Tree, but without success until a couple of years later we learned through friends in Florida who had visited us in Panama that we could find them in Florida. We therefore arranged to have a local nurseryman import two young plants for us. Unfortunately these first two plants were frost-bitten en route and died almost immediately. A replacement for these two also died shortly after planting. However, the third shipment of two young plants (about 30 inches tall) survived and have grown to a height of about 9 feet-plus in the six or seven years that they have been planted in our yard. They will probably reach a maximum height of around 25 to 30 feet at maturity. So far neither of our two plants has bloomed."

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● GARDEN CHORES

IF THE heat and humidity of the last two months of summer have left you limp, crisp up to the many gardening practices necessary during October and November. This is the time to plan and plant those woody and herbaceous plants which build the backbone of our gardens.

- In the warm inland areas, now is the time to plant Stocks, Balsam, Snapdragons, Calendula, Delphinium, Pansies, Violas, Primroses, Candytuft, Cineraria, Cyclamen, and the many other winter-spring bedding plants.

- If that row of Sweet Peas you had planned on is not in, plant now. On the coast and coastal valleys you could have planted that row in late August.

- Transplant and thin during these cooler months those plants which were started from seed in late summer. Having not started your own, a visit to the local nursery can provide a planting selection.

- If printed Chrysanthemum labels didn't enlighten your mind during spring planting, select the desired colors and types now while they are blooming.

- Reduce watering and feeding on those plants and bulbs which require winter dormancy. Should you be in an area where frost is a problem, this will help to harden-off more tender plants.

- Spring-flowering bulbs adapted to this area are now abundant at nurseries or from bulb specialists. The bulb planting areas should be dug deeply, mixing in well-rotted compost, leaf mold and peat. In planting, add bone meal to the area beneath the bulbs. After planting, the bed may be top dressed with manure, but manure should not be incorporated with the soil about the bulbs.

Among the bulbs available for planting now are Ranunculus, Anemones, *Ornithogalum arabicum* (Star of Bethlehem), Freesias, Sparaxis, Ixias, Gladiolus, Callas, Dutch Iris, Narcissus, Tulips, Hyacinths, Watsonias, Muscari, Scilla, Leucojum, Lycoris, Oxalis, and some varieties of Lilium.

Plan an extended bloom by choosing a varied selection. Low annuals interplanted with the bulbs will clothe the planting and provide winter color.

- Lawn care during these months is of the utmost importance. With the

holidays not far off, and visitors from colder climates, our garden carpet is often their most lasting impression. As the soil temperature drops with the approach of winter, the warm-climate grasses in particular will develop a pallor. Bermuda yellows and Crabgrass reddens as it dies, announcing that it is time to renovate. Renovation consists of scalping off the old mat of runners and reseeding with a grass adapted to the cool months.

Annual (Italian or Common) Rye, Perennial Rye, which are the least expensive, or Bent grass seed, are the most generally used in the winter dress-up. Cover this lawn seed-bed liberally with a weed-free steer manure or a prepared topping. If this chore seems more than you are up to, call a professional gardener equipped for the job.

Perhaps the past season has not produced the results you desired. This could be due, in large part, to the low rainfall of a year ago. Our soils have had little of nature's leaching. There are many soil amendments and conditioners which can be used to correct this condition and increase the garden's growth.

James Cauffield

● CAMELLIAS

THIS is blossom time for camellias, a season that began with the sasanquas in September, picks up new bursts of color in October and November as the first of the japonicas flower, and reaches a peak in January and February when the exotic reticulatas add their charm to the great floral show staged by the japonicas.

Care at this time includes disbudding, careful attention to watering, and the frequent removal of spent blooms.

A Calendar

of

Care

For container-grown plants, add to this list a light application of a camellia fertilizer low in nitrogen.

Disbudding is the practice of thinning out the crop of buds to obtain larger and better formed blooms. Some varieties require little if any disbudding, while others set buds in great clusters, most of which should be removed. If the latter are left alone, natural bud drop will take care of a portion of the excess. It is best, however, to lend nature a hand and to perform this chore while the buds are quite small. This conserves the plant's food supply and contributes to larger and better flowers.

The extent to which you should thin out the buds depends on your objectives. Sasanquas, incidentally, are rarely ever disbudded. Like climbing roses, these are grown for mass color.

In the case of japonicas grown for garden show, a light thinning will serve. Reduce large clusters to not more than two or three buds. Leaving buds of different sizes will help to stagger the period of bloom.

For exhibiting, at home or in shows, leave only one bud to a twig. If extra large blooms are your objective, leave but one bud to a branch. The best

show blooms are often found on the side of the plant most protected from wind and the early morning sun. Blooms from buds that point toward the ground are afforded some natural protection from dew and dust. In choosing the buds to be left to develop, watch for those so placed that they will have freedom to grow without interference from walls, fences, branches, and even leaves. Some exhibitors use clothespins to safely anchor back leaves that might distort the shape of a developing bloom.

Some camellia enthusiasts anxious for garden color, and show blooms, too, lightly thin the crop of buds on the sides of the plants exposed to view, and thin much more severely on the sheltered portion of the plants.

Bear in mind that growth buds as well as flower buds are to be found in the axils of a leaf. When quite small it is difficult to distinguish between the two, but when moderately grown the fat flower buds contrast sharply with the thin, cigar-like growth buds. To avoid accidentally removing a growth bud, twist excess flower buds loose instead of pulling them off.

Camellias require an adequate supply of soil moisture at all times during the blooming season. Any appreciable degree of wilt will result in bud drop. Water-logged plants will also sustain injury. Your objective should be a moist, but well-aerated soil. This may mean watering deeply once a week or twice weekly. Perhaps more frequently in the case of container-grown plants and less frequently for large plants grown in heavy soil.

In addition to watering deeply to afford a continuous supply of soil moisture, it is helpful to syringe the plants off during the heat of the day. Sprinkling walks and other surfaces in the vicinity increases humidity; this is highly desirable.

To state the case for such watering practices briefly, let's consider the factors contributing to bloom size. Five and six-inch blooms grow almost by magic from a bud about the size of an olive. Optimum flower size is the result of an adequate food reserve within the plant (created by the foliage through photosynthesis), an optimum of soil moisture in an aerated soil (rich in carbon dioxide), high humidity (just below dew point) to lessen loss of moisture through evaporation, and low air temperature (to slow down the opening of the bloom and thus allow time for maximum

(Next Page Please)



Gardenia thunbergia, photographed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Carringer, 825 Harbor View Place.

ROLAND HOYT* RECOMMENDS

Gardenia Thunbergia

NO AMOUNT of talk about gardenias' being easy will convince the coastal gardener who has tried them and failed. *Gardenia thunbergia*, not necessarily easy, is at least easier than the more familiar varieties. It will tolerate a more neutral soil and needs less heat for good growth, though it is even more demanding of warmth for blooming.

It is an open-growing shrub, sometimes 10 feet tall with a 20 foot spread, with large, almost black-green, pointed leaves, tail-like up to six inches long. Stiffly branching and fairly sparse in foliage, this slow-growing gardenia increases in vigor and bloom production with age.

The extremely fragrant white flowers appear in late summer. Three to four inches across, they consist of 8-10 single, widely flaring petals overlapping in a windmill effect, surrounding yellow stamens with filaments combined at the end of a long tube. To avoid objectionable odors, fading flowers should be removed.

Like all gardenias, *G. thunbergia* performs best in acid soil, but this seems not to be too important here. Rapid drainage is a primary requirement for successful growth. Place it

to receive heat but not much direct sun after mid-day, preferably against a warm wall which will give off heat overnight. Mix peat moss or fir bark into the planting mixture. Feed with a balanced commercial fertilizer bi-monthly from March through September, and treat for chlorosis with iron sulfate or iron chelates (probably never necessary if grown in heat). Mulch—don't cultivate.

This plant, rigid from the beginning, never calls for propping; the main stems become trunk-like in time. It requires some attention to pruning, clearing out of interior wood, and especially guidance of branches, since, once in place, they cannot be warped easily to change. It is somewhat tender in frost, and has a weakness for brown scale; chewed leaves will probably reveal the rose weevil. None of these is a serious drawback.

Gardenia thunbergia must be regarded as an unusually choice plant for the garden. Unfortunately, it is rarely available and, in fact, scarcely known. Be sure to acquire budded or grafted stock, since it will be much more satisfactory in bloom and comes in much earlier in life. Seedlings can stand unflowered as long as ten years or more. Be sure to look for the graft.

One stands in line at the nursery to get this aristocrat.

*Member ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.

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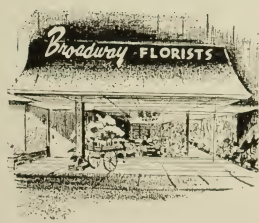
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growth). This explains why such extra attentions as syringing foliage and sprinkling walks and steps, which increase humidity and reduce air temperature, pay off in larger blooms. Disbudding pays off by conserving the plants' food reserves for a limited number of flowers.

Clive N. Pillsbury
Pres., S D Camellia Society

● FUCHSIAS

IN THE greater part of the United States, autumn finds the gardener "putting his garden to bed" for the winter, and thinking of other hobbies to occupy the cold, shut-in days ahead. Here in the Harbor of the Sun it is very different, as evidenced by the quotation from Holiday Magazine in Neil Morgan's column recently, that San Diego is one of the four cities in the world with a nearly perfect climate.

Winter gardening in such a climate is fascinating and rewarding for anybody at all interested in outdoor living. Many plants are at their best here in winter, and many others that normally rest then may easily have their blooming period extended through midwinter by proper care.

Fuchsia lovers have found that young plants, especially in containers, may be trimmed very lightly, properly fertilized beyond the time that most plants are allowed to go dormant, and made to bloom beautifully for many more weeks. Having them in baskets, or other containers, enables the gardener to move them about to the most favorable light and temperature conditions for the changing season.

Although our dry summer has meant more watering and feeding to keep plants up to par, lack of excessive heat has kept our fuchsias beautiful generally. The regular fish emulsion feedings may be discontinued in October. Heavy watering for leaching purposes may be tapered off, if heat is not excessive, as seasonal rains begin. Spraying may be needed more often than twice a month if insects get worse in warmer fall weather.

Fuchsias planted in the ground should have more leaf mold, manure and perhaps some mulch applied now, and planting mix added to containers, to replace soil washed away in heavy hot weather watering. The shallow root system of moisture-loving fuchsias

will benefit greatly from this extra soil, and especially the mulch, in winter as well as hot weather. Mulch may be leaves, peat, shavings, sawdust, dry grass, etc.; anything to conserve soil moisture and protect the roots. We have found a great advantage in moisture retention by using tin cans instead of pots or other porous containers, especially inside hanging baskets.

Remember the few simple basic requirements for easy success with fuchsias: Good, slightly acid soil, plenty of light with partial shade during the heat of the day, a constant supply of moisture, light fertilizer every few weeks, and regular pest control. The cooler months of fall and winter are good ones to start landscaping with fuchsias interspersed with ferns. Their natural grace and beauty blend perfectly.

Morrison W. Doty
S D Fuchsia Society

● ROSES

THIS has been an exceptionally rough season for the two fungi, mildew and rust. The long spell of warm days and warm nights with high humidity was the reason. All fungi thrive on warm dampness. Regular spraying will serve to hold mildew and rust in check, at least, and we'll hope for some days with dry desert winds that will kill those fungi spores in a hurry. Rake up any fallen leaves and saturate the ground as well as the plants with a good fungicide as a bit of insurance against another onslaught.

As you have probably learned, San Diego's climate is the greatest growing climate there is. Most perennials are very short-lived here because they have no dormant season in which to rest. October is the month that you start to "create" a sort-of-dormancy for your roses. Give them their last feeding for this year about the fifteenth of October. Continue deep watering for the next six or seven weeks and start slacking off the first of December until after pruning time. Do not let your roses dry out at any time; let weather conditions dictate how much to water.

October is the ideal month to start preparing new rose beds and to think about which roses you will plant. The area should be spaded to a depth of not less than eighteen inches—twenty-six or thirty is better. Should you encounter hardpan, treat it with one of the excellent soil conditioners that

are available at your favorite nursery. This will make for good drainage; roses do not like standing in water. Add to the spaded area a good quantity of well rotted manure and bean-straw, shavings or compost. Turn it all under and wet it down well. Continue to turn the soil and wet it down frequently until bare-root season. This will make a heavy soil friable and porous or sandy soil more water retentive, making an ideal condition for the feeder roots of your rose plants. This writer does not like to use peat moss because it is difficult to keep moist.

For assistance in selecting new roses, you might visit the rose section of nurseries and home gardens in your particular area. You will want to note color, growth habit and resistance to disease. All varieties do *not* do well in all areas. Wise, proven selections will not only add to your pride and pleasure in your rose garden, but will hold upkeep chores to a minimum.

Nettie B. Trotter
S D Rose Society

• ORCHIDS

WHAT to do with cymbidium orchids in October and November? From now, until the spikes are cut, change to a fertilizer with little or no nitrogen. Nitrogen encourages plant growth, and we want to encourage flower growth. From November on, spikes will be starting to show. They will come out from the base of the new growth. If you see a dark, blunt finger down there it is most likely a flower spike. Be careful when you are poking around, since it's very easy to break off the spike.

Why not grow some of the other orchids that do well out-of-doors in San Diego? The new hybrids of the reed-stem epidendrums — the "Poor Man's orchid"—come in every shade of red through purple, orange, yellow, even white, and are always in bloom. Their requirements are a rich soil, continuous moisture, and plenty of light.

Another good one to try is the cypripedium with its large pouch and lacquered appearance. Pot in fir bark, redwood, or hapa and keep moist at all times. Cyps like a lot of shade, so set the pots out under a tree or in a shady corner.

There are hundreds more odd, colorful orchids that like the San Diego

climate. The nice part about growing several types is having at least one in bloom at any time of the year.

Betty Newkirk
S D Orchid Society

• DAHLIAS

THIS is the time of year when dahlia growers contemplate the problem of saving their favorite plants for more of the same next year. Digging and storing the roots to grow again is no great problem; it's part of the fun of a year-around gardening hobby.

The average gardener who grows only a few dahlia plants may disagree, however. But even this gardener probably has one or more plants that were especially pleasing this year, and would like to have the same flowers again. Saving the roots isn't so difficult if a few fundamental precautions are taken.

First, when should one dig dahlia roots?

The answer is easy in the back country or anywhere else with freezing weather or frost. The first frost will blacken the plants and make them ready to dig a few days later.

In non-frost areas, there's no need to hurry the digging so long as the plants are green and continue to grow. It is a good idea to try to keep them growing—watered and fed a little—until rainy weather. Even a rain or so likely won't bother the roots unless the ground is soaked and stays wet. Sandy gardens that drain quickly present very little danger even if the rain is heavy.

The important thing to remember is that dahlia roots tend to rot or deteriorate if they stay wet for more than a couple of days; but, if the ground is dry or dries quickly, don't worry. For the average gardener the roots probably are better off left in the ground until they do get and stay wet. Unless one wants the fun of trying to keep-over the roots, it would be cheaper to leave them alone, and replace those that don't survive.

Many California gardeners allow their dahlia roots to stay in the ground until spring, and lift and divide them easily then. Even the specialists don't hurry; Thanksgiving or Christmas may be the dates to dig and store.

The gardener who is determined to try to keep the roots should be encouraged; being able to do so will

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make a specialist of him. The easiest way is to dig the entire clump with a fork, or two forks used from two sides. Trim off the dried stalk about two inches above the ground, and turn the clump, dirt and all as intact as possible, upside down into a box or cardboard carton. Cover the clump with newspaper or other material to keep drafts of air off. Try to maintain earth dampness in the soil, even by adding a little water now and then, and the clump should keep well in a dry, protected place. More clumps than one? More boxes!

Should the gardener have sandy soil, he can lift the roots carefully and then recover them with soil after they are placed in the boxes. This type of storage should be good until late February or early March, when they should be dampened and put in a warm place to start awakening.

If there are too many clumps, the box storage isn't recommended. Then it's better to remove most of the soil, or all of it, and divide the roots. Some growers merely split the clump for more compact storage. Others make divisions immediately, ready for planting, labeling each root or division with an indelible pencil for identification.

Roots thus divided keep better if dried and cured in the shade for a few hours. Slight shriveling won't hurt them. Then they may be packed in cartons with vermiculite, peat moss, shredded paper, shavings, or any number of other kinds of material—anything to keep them from drying too much, or getting damp.

There are books on the subject, and gardening writers tell all kinds of root-saving methods. Above all, the best way is to join the dahlia society and learn how the other gardeners do it.

Larry Sisk

S D County Dahlia Society

● **BEGONIAS**

THERE is not too much to be done in the shade garden at this time of year. With most of their active growing finished, the plants enter a resting stage. These months can give a glorious display, but it is a more mature sort of thing with very little new growth.

Although the weather can be very hot and dry, the days are shorter, so be careful with watering to be sure that there is enough, but not too much.

Insects are still active, and mildew can be a problem, so the usual spray program should be carried on.

Some growers do not feed their plants after October, while others continue feeding on a year-round basis. In deciding which of these programs to follow, remember that an active, growing plant is less susceptible to disease.

This is not the time to do any repotting, but it is necessary to keep dead leaves trimmed and disposed of. Continue slug and snail control; these pests seem to know no season.

If the rains should come (it has happened), protect the plants from a too soggy condition. Rhizomatous types which stay too wet often result in a rotted root system and a very dead plant.

Tuberous begonias should be allowed to die back; this can be aided by gradually withholding water. After the top growth has fallen off, lift the tuber carefully and store it away until late winter, or early spring, when it is ready to be started again for the next year.

Margaret M. Lee

● **FERNS**

HOW TO cope with fungus attacks on ferns is a problem that has been plaguing growers for years. The strap-leaf types, such as Bird's Nest Fern and strap-leaf polypodiums, and the "Tongue" ferns, to call them by their common names, are subject to attack by fungus. It also troubles the *Platycerium grande*, the giant of all Staghorn ferns. What sometimes seems to be slug or snail damage is often spot fungus.

The Bird's Nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) is reported also to be especially susceptible to foliar nematodes. The symptoms are progressive browning to the mid-rib, sometimes in a triangular pattern.

Water on the foliage aggravates both fungus and the nematode condition. They are particularly difficult to control in greenhouses because of droplets of condensing moisture. Removing affected foliage will help in both cases.

On recent advice, I have experimented with a recommended "cure," and want to pass on to you the favorable results.

Dissolve one teaspoon of Doo-

Spray* or wettable captan in a five gallon can of water filled to three-fourths capacity. This mixture should be stirred well to assure the dissolving process. (Doo-Spray is also available in liquid form.) Immerse the entire fern, pot, soil and all, in this bath for about three hours. If the fronds are too long to go into the bath, be sure they are well washed with the "bath" water. Do not add fertilizer to the mixture; this type of feeding program should be undertaken separately. Caution: if repeated treatments are needed, allow ten days between "baths."

Three weeks after such treatment on two of my ferns, I found many new, clean fronds emerging. Treatment should benefit any sluggish-growing fern, whether you suspect fungus or not. Replace the fern, after soaking, in its regular sheltered location.

If ferns growing in the ground appear distorted in growth, they may also be treated by applying Doo-Spray heavily as a spray once a week for three weeks.

* * *

Fern collectors, looking for unusual varieties of Maiden Hairs (*Adiantums*), sometimes buy ferns that do not yet have mature fronds to judge. Immature fronds of most ferns are of a different pattern from mature fronds.

Be sure to ask your nurseryman for the name of the fern. For reasons of economy, many of us buy small plants to add to our collections. This is when we can bring home a duplicate if we neglect to carry a list of our ferns in purse or pocket—and check it before making a purchase.

Dorothy S. Behrends

*Editor's note—Products are mentioned by trade name when essential to the author's meaning. Doo-Spray is a product of Cooke Chemical Co.

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NATURE'S NOOK . . . Sidelights on the world of plants

ROSEMARY

By Donald Betts

ONE little plant we see almost every day appeals to me greatly. This is our common garden herb, Rosemary, a sprightly aromatic plant with rich green, needle-like leaves and gay little blue flowers like a bit of heaven fallen down to the ground. Its botanical name is *Rosemarinus officinalis*; it is the only species in this genus.

The Latin word "rosemarinus" means "sea-dew." The Romans gave it this poetic name because they found it growing in profusion on the cliffs of southern France overlooking the Mediterranean. It is easy to imagine that any dew falling there, reflecting the blue of the sea, might well have the same pale blue coloring as the little flowers of Rosemary.

This history adds a certain richness to my appreciation of the plant, and my interest is deepened by the literary associations it also carries. Anyone who has read Shakespeare's "Hamlet" will remember the mad scene where Ophelia goes about offering imaginary flowers to those around her. When she comes to rosemary, she holds it out and says, "Here's rosemary, that's for remembrance." In the medieval world, and perhaps stretching back into the mists of ancient history, certain herbs and flowers represented certain human qualities or attributes. Thus rosemary came to represent remembrance.

During World War II, I was stationed in the English midlands, at a base about 30 miles from Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon. On April 23, the poet's birthday, I paid a visit to that charming little town. Great masses of flowers and decorations sent by people from all over the world were stacked in the old stone church where Shakespeare is buried. Some of these floral tributes were magnificent and impressive. But one little bouquet lying on the stone slabs of the church floor caught my eye particularly. It was a few sprigs of rosemary tied up with a bit of ribbon. I leaned forward

and read the card attached to it: "Here's rosemary. That's for remembrance." It was signed "The Children of the Shottery School."

Shottery is the tiny village near Stratford where Ann Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife, spent her girlhood. And the children of the Shottery school would be the descendants of the people among whom Shakespeare and his wife and their families grew up, lived, and died.

When I considered this, and remembered how deeply Shakespeare appreciated children, how much he loved them, and how wholesome and child-like he kept his own mind and nature, I could not help but feel that of all the splendid wreaths banked about in the old church to honor him that day, none would have touched him more deeply than that humble little sprig of rosemary from the children of his old boyhood haunts.

"Here's rosemary. That's for remembrance."

What finer thing could be said in favor of a beautiful plant?

QUAIL GARDENS NEEDS YOU

Quail Gardens Foundation offers charter memberships to groups and individuals until January 1, 1962.

The Foundation is a non-profit corporation working with the County Department of Parks and Recreation in developing Quail Gardens, near Encinitas, as a botanic garden. Donations of horticultural materials, equipment and services are also solicited. Contact Mrs. A. R. Seibert, President, Box 816, Escondido, California.

Memberships should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. W. L. Stoner, 131 S. Orange, Escondido. Classifications of annual membership:

Society—\$10.
Junior Group—\$5
Active (individual)—\$3.

Native, Ornamental, Edible

By Mary Alice Baldwin

AMONG the many lovely wild flowers and shrubs that still adorn our uncultivated areas, there are some with an intriguing secret: they are edible. For the person who knows which plants to look for, there are new taste adventures as well as nourishment ahead.

We know that Indians lived off the land before the Spaniards arrived in California and taught them to raise crops, but which plants sustained them is not commonly known. The trick in gathering wild provender is in knowing what to look for, and when, and how to prepare it when gathered. Since the Indians knew the trick, one needs only to learn it from them, which in itself can be a fascinating hobby. The staple item on the Indians' menu was provided by acorns from our native Oaks, but there are at least sixty other plants that contributed heavily to their diet. Many of their useful plants are indeed charming enough for any flower garden.

One well-known edible plant that grows on our hillsides is the Yucca, sometimes called God's Candles. These beautiful tall stalks, bearing a mass of white bloom, are the crowning glory of a cactus-like plant. They have a fragrance so sweet and so heady that if the flowers are brought indoors their scent is almost overpowering. Each separate waxy-white flower with its black center is a thing of beauty, and an eight-to-ten foot stalk, of which about one half is a column of bloom, is a fabulous sight indeed. But when the stalk first starts to sprout from the spiny leaves it looks very much like a gigantic asparagus. This new shoot can be baked and eaten, and it was so

prized by the Indians that they dug fire pits in which to bake them. They lined the pit with rocks and built a fire in it until the rocks were very hot. Then they scraped out the fire, put in the Yucca shoots, covered them with grass and earth, and let them bake for twenty-four hours.

There are many edible bulbs, but one of the prettiest is *Brodiaea capitata*, also called Grass Nuts, Blue Dicks, Cluster Lily, or Wild Garlic. All through the spring one can see these lovely, purplish-blue flowers waving on slender stalks just above the surrounding vegetation in fields or on hillsides. The flowers come in a cluster of seven or eight on the end of the stalk, and they last a long time as cut flowers in water. The bulb itself is small, solid, and coated with brownish fibers, and when eaten raw is crisp and quite palatable. It also may be slightly roasted, when it resembles a hazel nut in size and texture.

The Indians were great seed-gatherers, and the little Chia plant gave them an important food product. Chia, or *Salvia columbariae*, belongs to the mint family; hence the stem rises through the center of each of its round heads that bear the flowers. The plant may be from six inches to two feet tall, and the round flower bracts are purplish or wine colored, ornamented with small, bright blue flowers, an effective contrast. It smells of sage, and grows wild on dry hillsides.

THE seeds, dark, round, flat, and slippery, ripening in July or August, have high nutritional value. It is said that an Indian runner could sustain his strength on a handful of Chia seeds a day for the length of his journey. And indeed it has been found that wherever the Western Indian cultivated corn, he had Chia in his garden as well. The Spanish Californians included it in their food gardens, as do many Mexicans today. The usual preparation for food was to parch the seeds, grind them to flour, and make a gruel of them, for they expand in water to three times their original size. A beverage was also made by soaking the seeds in water. However prepared they were an important addition to the native diet.

These are but three of the many beautiful and useful native plants that ornament California hillsides and keep their secret of edibility for those willing to discover it. In searching for something exotic we often overlook the wondrous things in our own back yards that would seem exotic to the rest of the world.

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Potpourri

... people, places, products in the news

• Cross Section San Diego

Tours of the Civic Center gardens will be a feature of "Cross Section San Diego" on October 7 and 8, according to Noel Hutton, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. Beginning at the west main entrance at 10, 12, 2 and 4 o'clock on both days, the tours will last approximately one hour. James Saraceno, Gardener Foreman, will act as tour conductor.

"Cross Section San Diego" is designed to acquaint citizens with the operation of local government, San Diego's "second largest industry."

Garden tours at the Civic Center are also scheduled every Thursday at noon. Since they were started last July, the tours have attracted an increasing number of participants each week. Inquire at the Information Booth in the Civic Center lobby for the starting point, since it will vary from week to week.

Among the outstanding plants are the Giant Birds-of-Paradise and the palm collection. These gardens demonstrate what can be accomplished on an exposed waterfront site with strong prevailing wind.

• For Hungry Gardeners

A comprehensive guide to food production for the homeowner is available free from the University of California. Published last April as Circular 499, it is *Home Vegetable Gardening* by John H. MacGillivray, Professor of Vegetable Crops at Davis.

This 34-page illustrated booklet covers planning, soil preparation and seeding, care of the growing plants, harvesting and storing. Forty-five vegetables, with suggested varieties and number of plants for a family of four, are described.

To obtain a copy, contact the Uni-

versity of California Farm Adviser, 4005 Rosecrans, San Diego 10; or Agricultural Publications, 207 University Hall, 2200 University Avenue, Berkeley 4, Calif.

• Blooming Balboa Park

October

Botanical Building—Chrysanthemums, Coleus
Formal—Chrysanthemums, Roses
Mall—Salvia

November

Botanical Building—Chrysanthemums, Coleus
Formal—Chrysanthemums
Prado—Begonias
Zoo Picnic Area—Koelreuteria
House of Pacific Relations—Liquidambar, Ginkgo

• New Wildlife Area

One of six California areas named as a wildlife preserve under a new Interior Department program is in San Diego County. It is McCain Valley, which lies between Jacumba and Guatay north of U.S. 80.

The valley's land and wildlife resources will be developed under a cooperative program of federal and state agencies. Fishing, hunting, mining and grazing activities will be restricted, and the area will be closed to home-steading. The state will build access roads and recreational facilities.

• Horticultural Congress

The 16th Horticultural Congress of the American Horticultural Society will take place October 25-28 in Northampton, Mass. The general theme of the Congress, featuring outstanding horticultural speakers, will be "Horticultural Advances to Aid the Gardener." For detailed information, contact Congress Headquarters, A. W. Hixson, Chairman, 6 Gates Lane, Worcester, Mass.

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For information on the CALIFORNIA GARDEN sponsorship program contact Mrs. Eugene Cooper, Chairman, 4444 Arista Dr., San Diego 5 (CY 5-7938).



Forest fires menace most on weekends. More people are in the forest—and there's more chance for *man-caused* fires to flare; more chance for destruction—and terror!

It's a tragic and shameful fact that nine out of ten forest fires are *man-caused*—too often by the carelessness of a “weekender” who thoughtlessly flips away a smoke or a glowing match.

So when you're in the forest over a weekend—or on a Sunday drive or a picnic—be extra careful. Always follow Smokey Bear's rules:

Break matches—crush smokes—be SURE all fires are out!

Remember—
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